

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER
LISTED

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

JUL 08 2009

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A) Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name First Presbyterian Church

Other name/site number 037-261

2. Location

Street & number 202 N. Summit ☐ not for publication

City or town Girard ☐ vicinity

State Kansas Code KS County Crawford Code 037 Zip code 66743

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Patricia Folmer DSHPO

5-22-09

Signature of certifying official/Title
Kansas State Historical Society

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of commenting official /Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- ☐ entered in the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
- ☐ removed from the National Register
- ☐ other, (explain:)

First Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Crawford County, Kansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter Categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque/Romanesque
Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: Limestone
Walls: Brick

Roof: Asphalt

Other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

First Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Crawford County, Kansas
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☒ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1888-1914

Significant Dates

1888 (original construction), 1914 (stained glass windows).

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Charles Miller and Joseph Thain (architects, Chicago)

Brown, Loren (builder)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

First Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Crawford County, Kansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	5	3	3	7	0	9	7	4	1	5	3	3	0	9
Zone			Easting						Northing						
2															
3															
4															

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Christy Davis
Organization Davis Preservation, LLC Date 12/30/2008
Street & number 909 1/2 Kansas Ave, Suite 7 Telephone 785-234-5053
City or town Topeka State Kansas Zip code 66612

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Name First Presbyterian Church (John Calvin Presbytery)
Street & number 202 N. Summit Telephone 620-724-6482
City or town Girard State Kansas Zip code 66743

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

First Presbyterian Church
Girard, Crawford County, Kansas

Narrative Description

Setting

The First Presbyterian Church of Girard is located at 200 North Summit, on the northeast corner of Walnut and Summit in Girard (pop. 2773), Crawford County, Kansas. Girard is located in southeast Kansas, in an area historically occupied by the Osage Indian Tribe. The region's permanent white settlement began in the years immediately following the Civil War. By the late nineteenth century, the area's abundance of natural resources – oil, gas, clay, zinc – had transformed Crawford County into an industrial hub. These industries had attracted a diverse array of workers, and by extension labor organizers, from around the world. The church, whose congregation has owned the lot since 1870, is located in a core residential neighborhood which lies one block north of Girard's courthouse square. Built in 1888, the First Presbyterian Church is not only the community's oldest remaining church building, but also one of the community's oldest remaining buildings.

Exterior

Overall

The First Presbyterian Church is a 2-story masonry building. It is rectangular in massing, with a steep gabled roof with lower cross gables. The footprint measures 56' X 72'. The building has a rubble limestone foundation, un-coursed limestone water table, and brick exterior walls set in a common bond pattern. The roof, with its abbreviated eaves, is covered with composition shingles. The rectangular footprint is interrupted by lower cross gables on the north and south elevations and a tower on the southwest corner. The windows have dressed limestone sills and corbelled lintels. The majority of them are 1/1 double-hung wood windows with stained glass glazing. Some have half-round arch tops.

West (Front) Elevation

The front elevation is divided into five bays. The northernmost bay is one story in height. The water table has two window openings. There are two double-hung windows with a continuous limestone sill on the first floor. The second through fourth bays form a symmetrical mass. Each bay has a small window in the water table, a double window on the first floor, and a double window with arch top on the second floor. There is a square louvered attic vent in the gable. The southernmost bay houses the building's main entrance, a double door with a corbelled arched opening. Stairs flanked by brick cheek walls rise from the sidewalk to the double entry doors. The entry doors have been replaced at least twice since the building's original construction.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church
Girard, Crawford County, Kansas

Section number 7 Page 2

East (Rear) Elevation

The rear elevation is principally a gable end with few openings. On the south end of the elevation is the east elevation of a south-projecting one-story vestibule – marked by a gabled roof and a small arch-topped window. The center of the east elevation slightly bumps out. Centered on the bump-out are a coal chute in the water table and an attic vent in the gable.

North (Side) Elevation

The principal architectural feature of the north elevation is a wall gable with three arched window openings that share a continuous limestone sill. There are two window openings in the bump-out's water table. There is an arched double window opening west of the bump-out. There are two additional window openings in the water table west of the bump-out.

South (Side) Elevation

The south elevation is the most architecturally complex. There is a 1 ½ story stair tower on the west end, rising up to a 3-story bell tower. The top of the tower, which originally measured 60' in height, was removed in 1972.¹ The south elevation of the entrance bay houses a pair of arched window openings with shared sill. The tower has two pairs of arched window openings, a single arched window opening, and an arched louver opening in the bell tower. The entrance bay window openings correspond with the stair-tower landing and, therefore, fall between the first and second levels. A small window opening is below and centered on three of the openings in the tower. A new opening in the stone water table provides ADA access to the basement. The sidewalk leading to this entrance is protected by an open gabled shed roof, which is supported by simple wood posts. East of the entrance is an arched window opening housing a pair of windows. East of this is a lower wall gable that houses three arched window openings, each housing a pair of windows and an arched transom. These windows are separated by brick pilasters. These windows share a continuous stone sill and have corbelled brick arched lintels. There is a small window opening in the water table below each of these three windows. East of the wall gable is a projecting gabled entrance, with arched corbelled door opening on the south elevation and small arched windows on the east and west elevations. This entrance is accessed via a south-projecting stair with brick cheek walls. The doors are non-original.

¹ "Girard Church Celebrates 100th Year," *Girard Press*, 17 June 1987. When the top of tower was removed, the tower bell was removed to storage in the lower part of the tower. The bell was made by the McShane Bell Foundry of Baltimore. The firm is still in business.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

First Presbyterian Church
Girard, Crawford County, Kansas

Interior

Like its exterior, the church's interior retains a high degree of architectural integrity. Among the character-defining features found throughout are plaster walls, stained woodwork, original window openings and trim with 1914 stained-glass windows, original doors with Eastlake hardware and original trim, and wainscoting. The wood was grained "in the latest style."²

The double entry doors open to a 14' X 22' vestibule, which opens to a stair that rises to the balcony and bell tower and a pair of paneled doors that opens to the sanctuary. The sanctuary, which is also accessible via an exterior entrance on the east end of the south elevation, measures 47' X 47'. The pews (purchased 1986), which face east toward a raised stage with pulpit, sit on a floor which slopes 18" from the back to front row. There are organ pipes (ca. 1917) in the northeast corner and there is a vestry, accessible from an exterior entrance, in the southeast corner. Other character-defining features in the sanctuary include wainscoting and picture rail.

A complex ceiling form contributes to the sanctuary's acoustics. The ceilings on the side bays mimic the roofline. The ceiling sections are delineated by wood beams. The main ceiling is coved to match the shape of the balcony, which is on the sanctuary's west wall. A projecting wainscoting balcony railing is supported by decorative brackets. The balcony opening is partially (and reversibly) enclosed with non-historic paneling. The balcony (historically known as the "gallery"), which is accessible via the open stair in the main foyer, is one large open space that measures 22' X 40'. The partially enclosed balcony opening is on its east wall; the stained glass windows are on its west wall; a door on the north wall opens into attic space; and a door on the south wall opens to the stair hall.

Below the balcony are four sets of double doors that open into an overflow spaces which can be closed off or opened by closing or opening paneled pocket doors. These spaces were originally known as the "lecture room" (22' X 28') and "infant class room" (12' X 22').³ The northernmost room includes a modern kitchen. The south overflow space houses a lift that rises from the basement.

The basement is accessible from the building's interior, and via an exterior entrance on the south elevation. Most of the basement is finished, with an open meeting hall, restrooms and kitchen. The simple finishes in these spaces include painted panel doors, painted trim, and a ca. 1920s glazed tile fireplace. A boiler room and storage areas have exposed limestone walls.

² *Girard Press*, 23 November 1887.

³ *Ibid.*

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church
Girard, Crawford County, Kansas

Section number 8 Page 4

Statement of Significance

Introduction

The First Presbyterian Church of Girard is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as an example of Romanesque-Revival architecture. The building has changed little since its construction in 1888, with the exception of the installation of the stained-glass windows (1914), a common improvement made in the years following churches' original construction.

A Brief History of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. and Kansas

The Presbyterian Church was established in Scotland in the Sixteenth Century when Scotsman John Knox imported the teachings of Swiss theologian John Calvin. British colonists introduced the denomination to America, establishing the nation's first presbytery in Philadelphia in 1706. From that point forward, Presbyterian leaders contributed to key episodes in American history – from the Great Awakening to the American Revolution, from the Civil War to Civil Rights.

The history of Presbyterianism is characterized by continual reformation and dogmatic adjustment. Social commentary on and engagement in timely issues, especially universal education, ministry, and scientific discoveries characterize the church's unwavering dedication to its own development and continued relevance to its congregants. Heated debates and declarations over slavery, education of women, abortion and evolution, among other issues, and the many rifts among the faithful caused by these disparate, strong convictions have led to a tangle of associations and divisions within the faith.

Just as Presbyterian missionaries were among the first immigrants to reach American soil, they also were the first to minister in what is now the State of Kansas.⁴ Like many denominations, Presbyterians established a presence through missions and associated schools. When the United Foreign Missionary Society of New York, New York dispatched Reverend Benton Pixley, his wife and two children to "Indian Territory" in 1824, they became the first non-Catholic missionaries to serve on Kansas soil.⁵ The Pixleys founded the Neosho Mission near Shaw, Kansas in present-day

⁴ KS Cyclopedia. July 2002. Transcribed from Volume II of Kansas: A Cyclopedia of State History. (Chicago: Standard Publishing Company, 1912), Ed. Frank W. Blackmar. Dec. 11, 2008.
<http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/archives/1912/p/presbyterian_church.htm>.

⁵ Juan Padilla, a Franciscan missionary, first arrived in Kansas in 1541 with Coronado.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

*First Presbyterian Church
Girard, Crawford County, Kansas*

Section number 8 Page 5

Neosho County. The Neosho Mission housed the first school in Kansas, where classes and religious services were offered to Osage Indians until 1829.⁶

In 1827, Dr. William Combe Requa established the Hopefield Mission near present-day Parsons, in Labette County. There, in 1834, Dr. Requa "reduced the Osage language to writing and published an Osage Primer." In 1830, Reverend Nathaniel B. Dodge founded the Boudinot Mission in Neosho County.⁷

The state's first Presbyterian church was the Wea Church. Founded in 1836, near what is now Ottawa, the Wea Church served ten to twelve Piankeshaw and Wea Native Americans until its closure in 1838. The Iowa Church was founded in 1843 and ministered to Iowa, Sac, Fox, Otoe, and Omaha Indians.⁸ Six years later, the first presbytery in Kansas, the Presbytery of Nebraska [sic], was organized. Its jurisdiction was all of "Indian Territory:" everything west of the Missouri River and north of Platte County, Missouri. By 1857, there were two presbyteries in Kansas Territory: Highland Presbytery and Kansas Presbytery. The Spring Meeting of the Highland Presbytery, 1864, reported 25 churches and 15 members.⁹

In 1857, the school that served the Iowa and Sac Missions moved to Highland and was chartered by the Territorial Legislature as Highland College in 1858. In 1860, the Iowa Mission Church also relocated to Highland and continued its outreach until 1957, when it was incorporated as part of the Hiawatha Church.

It is estimated about thirty missions were founded between 1840 and 1860 to serve both Native American and Anglo worshippers.¹⁰ Between 1856 and 1865, Presbyterian churches were established in Leavenworth, Doniphan, Wyandotte, Atchison, Lawrence, Topeka, Fort Scott, and Junction City.¹¹ However, as the federal government continued to force Native Americans off their ancestral lands, the missions were rendered obsolete and either abandoned or incorporated.

⁶ George W. Nelson, "The First 100 Years of The United Presbyterian Church in Kansas," (21-page booklet),

2.

⁷ Ibid, 2.

⁸ Ibid, 3.

⁹ Ibid, 6.

¹⁰ Ibid, 4.

¹¹ KS Cyclopedia. July 2002. Transcribed from Volume II of Kansas: A Cyclopedia of State History. (Chicago: Standard Publishing Company, 1912), Ed. Frank W. Blackmar. 499-501. Dec. 12, 2008.

<http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/archives/1912/presbyterian_church.html>.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church
Girard, Crawford County, Kansas

Section number 8 Page 6

The Presbyterian Church would play a role in the next phase of state history, when battles over the territory's slavery status earned it the moniker "Bleeding Kansas." As early as 1787, the Presbyterian Synod of New York and Philadelphia pronounced slavery a moral abomination, called for its immediate abolition and encouraged the education of slaves as preparation for their eventual freedom.¹² The new territory's slavery struggle attracted abolitionist Presbyterian leaders and congregants alike. Among the early abolitionist congregations were Leavenworth's First Presbyterian Church, established 1856 and Topeka's First Presbyterian Church, established 1859.¹³

After the Union's victory in the Civil War and the emancipation of slaves, Presbyterians in the North attempted to heal the divided church by calling for those in the South to renounce their support of slavery and secession from the Union. They sent missionaries south to organize churches and establish educational institutions for free blacks—acts which the recently defeated southern Presbyterians interpreted as insults. This deep division within the Church would not be resolved until 1869.¹⁴

As industrialization and urbanization gathered momentum in the post-Civil War years, the Presbyterian Church responded with great moral concern. In 1896, as a response to the perceived decadence, conspicuous consumption, and indulgence of the age, Presbyterian Congregationalist Charles Sheldon of Topeka, Kansas, authored a novel titled *In His Steps*, in which he first posited the well-worn question, "What would Jesus do?"¹⁵ Among Sheldon's missions was the establishment of schools for Topeka's African-American children, whose numbers grew following the post-Reconstruction Black Exodus to Kansas.

During the Era of Reform, Presbyterians contributed to the social discourse by publicly advocating Sunday as a day of rest from labor; the universal prohibition of alcohol; and education for the masses, including kindergarten. Presbyterians had begun to offer college courses at Cooper Memorial College, now Sterling College, in 1887. During the Progressive Era, the college achieved

¹² James H. Smylie, *A Brief History of the Presbyterians*. (Louisville, Kentucky: Geneva Press, 1996), 66.

¹³ Victor B. Howard, "Presbyterians, the Kansas-Nebraska Act, and the Election of 1856," *Journal of Presbyterian History* 49 (Summer 1971): 133-156.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 87-90.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 96.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church
Girard, Crawford County, Kansas

Section number 8 Page 7

some permanence. By 1906, the Presbyterian Church claimed 40,765 members in Kansas, ranking it fifth among all denominations.¹⁶

As an example of Presbyterian ministry come full circle, Dr. Henry Roe Cloud, a Winnebago Indian and Presbyterian minister, founded the American Indian Institute in Wichita in 1920. Dr. Cloud, who was raised in a Presbyterian Home Mission on a Nebraska reservation, founded the Institute in Wichita to serve Native American boys from broken homes.¹⁷ In 1949, Presbyterian Manor of Newton, the first Presbyterian home for the aged, opened its doors in Wakarusa, Kansas, on land bequested by a Kansas farmer.¹⁸

The church's theology of reform guided its commitment to the Civil Rights movement. The first call for desegregation came in a Church declaration in 1946. The 1950s saw the dismantling of segregated synods and the establishment of The Commission of Religion and Race (UPCUSA) and The Black Presbyterian Leadership Caucus (PCUS). Presbyterians were among peaceful protesters following the lead of Martin Luther King, Jr., and black church organizers developed Liberation Theology, reminding Christians of the enslavement and liberation of Israelites in Egypt and of their responsibility to minister to the oppressed and downtrodden.¹⁹ Kansas congregations followed the lead. Brotherhood Presbyterian Church in Wichita desegregated its congregation in 1954 and James Robinson, an African-American pastor, ministered to a racially balanced congregation through the 1970s.²⁰ In 1967, the City of Wichita held a public hearing to discuss the criminalization of discriminatory practices among realtors. Although the housing ordinance failed, supporters included Hugh Jackson from Brotherhood Presbyterian Church and Wayne Harrison from the Presbyterian Commission of Religion and Race.²¹

Many breaks and reconciliations between factions of the Presbyterian Church have occurred throughout its history, culminating in a major unification in 1983. After the unification, many congregations consolidated. Some, including the two Presbyterian churches in nearby Pittsburg, Kansas, which merged in 1985, abandoned their historic buildings.

¹⁶ Blackmar, 499-501. Dec. 12, 2008.

¹⁷ Nelson, 3-4.

¹⁸ History-Presbyterian Manors of Mid-America, Dec. 12, 2008

<www.presbyterianmanors.org/about_us/history.php>.

¹⁹ UPCUSA stands for "United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America." PCUS stands for "Presbyterian Church in the United States." Smylie, 129.

²⁰ Gretchen Cassel Eick, *Dissent in Wichita: The Civil Rights Movement in the Midwest, 1952-72*. (Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2001), 135-136.

²¹ Ibid, 57.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church
Girard, Crawford County, Kansas

Section number 8 Page 8

A Brief History of Girard

Girard, Kansas (pop. 2800), the county seat of Crawford County, was sited and named by Dr. Charles Strong, a native of Girard, Pennsylvania. According to local lore, Strong marked as the town site the place where a deer he shot fell. Girard narrowly defeated Crawfordsville in a late 1868 election to become county seat. County-seat designation was critical to growing towns in the nineteenth century when county seats were centers of community life in an agriculture-based society.

By February 1870, the town was bustling with 5 hotels, 4 eating houses, 8 restaurants and saloons, 5 grocery stores, 1 wholesale grocery, 1 clothing store, 5 dry goods, 2 shoemakers, 1 saddleshop, 1 drug store, 1 printing office, 1 watch shop, 2 bakeries, 1 billiard saloon, 1 book store, 7 law and land offices, and 2 lumber offices and yards. In all, there were 72 homes and 140 buildings. Many of the town's 260 residents hailed from Fort Scott. Many others were Civil War veterans who populated the state's southeast region in the late nineteenth century.

Girard continued to grow after the Missouri River, Fort Scott, and Gulf Railroad brought passenger service on March 3, 1870. Railroads stimulated unprecedented growth throughout the state. Along with fair weather, they ushered in an unparalleled economic boom. By 1880, Girard boasted a population of 1292.²² Brick buildings gradually replaced the temporary wood structures – and in 1886, the last wooden building was moved from the town square. Civic improvements included a waterworks in 1893 and interurban lines to Dunkirk and Arma. The town's population had doubled to 2547 by 1900.²³

Like other communities in southeast Kansas, Girard became an industrial center, spurred by boosters who raised funds to lure investors. In 1884, Girard Foundry opened for business. A zinc smelting plant opened in 1888. More smelters came to town after the Girard Board of Trade raised \$11,000 to lure St. Louis investors. Mining and other industries attracted European immigrants, who were credited for giving the town a "radical" air and the region the nickname "Kansas Balkans."

²² US Census, 1880.

²³ US Census, 1900.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church
Girard, Crawford County, Kansas

Section number 8 Page 9

A progressive community, Girard was at the center of various reform movements. During the 1890s, the *Girard Press* featured a regular front-page column calling for women's suffrage. Industrial Girard was a seedbed for the organized labor movement. While Populist farmers were calling for "free and unlimited coinage of silver," industrial workers called for state ownership of industry in the form of Socialism. Girard became a center of Socialist activity. The Girard Socialists were chartered in 1897, the same year that publisher J. A. Wayland moved his socialist newspaper, *The Appeal to Reason*, to town.

By the late nineteenth century, Girard faced serious competition from the nearby community of Pittsburg, Kansas. Established in 1876 as "New Pittsburg," Pittsburg began as a coal mining camp located on the rail line that linked the industrial towns of Girard and Joplin, Missouri. Soon, industrialists eyed the region's coal for its potential to fuel other industries. By 1883, Pittsburg was home to three zinc smelters and 4000 residents. In 1891, Pittsburg was home to 29 corporations. The town's population continued to grow in the twentieth century, expanding from 10,112 in 1900 to 18,148 in 1930.²⁴

Over the years, Girard has successfully fended off calls to move the county seat to Pittsburg (pop. 19,243) by making concessions to their larger neighbor city. Although Girard's population remains steady at 2800, its economy is still tied to industry. Today, Girard is the self-proclaimed "printing capital of the nation," home to five printing firms.²⁵

A Brief History of the First Presbyterian Church of Girard

In the years immediately following the Civil War, Southeast Kansas Presbyterians, in the words of pioneer minister S. T. McClure, "were like the lost sheep of the House of Israel." After attending a meeting of the Neosho Presbytery in Fort Scott in early 1868, Crawford County delegates were inspired to organize their own congregation. Early Crawford County Presbyterian meeting places included log cabins, a schoolhouse, a public hall and a grove.

In October 1869, after Girard was named county seat, Reverend McClure led an effort to organize a church there. At the time of its organization, Girard's Presbyterian Church had six charter members, "nearly all of which were ladies": Hugh Lee, Mrs. Lyman Church, Joseph Marsh, Mrs.

²⁴ US Census, 1900; 1930.

²⁵ James Shortridge, *Cities on the Plains: The Evolution of Urban Kansas* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2004), 366.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

***First Presbyterian Church
Girard, Crawford County, Kansas***

Section number 8 Page 10

Joseph Marsh, Augustus Hawley and Mrs. James Hull.²⁶ Under the leadership of ruling elder Hugh Lee and Deacon Joseph Marsh, the new church met in the district court room, the dining room of the Girard House, and a schoolhouse on the northwest side of the square.²⁷

The fledgling church's first order of business was the construction of a dedicated meeting place. In December, the trustees appointed a building committee, which raised its first \$200 at a festival fundraiser on January 27, 1870. Although the congregation had not raised all the funds necessary to complete the planned building, it hired William Adamson to begin construction in August. The building envelope was completed by December 1870. To raise the funds to complete the interior, the church held a second major fundraiser in March 1871. The 32' X 40' frame building was finally completed in June 1871 at a cost of \$3500.²⁸

On the morning of November 22, 1886, a seventy-five-foot-wide tornado "passed through the residence portion" of Girard. Although the "larger and more substantial buildings stood the shock without much damage," the wood-framed First Presbyterian Church was "wrecked."²⁹

Fortunately, by the time the first building was destroyed, the church had attracted increasing numbers of congregants, among them "the most active business men" who had reaped the financial rewards of a then-underway economic boom.³⁰ Among the members blessed with the discretionary cash necessary to contribute to the rebuilding were Henry and Sarah Alice Haldeman. The Haldemans owned the State Bank of Girard from 1886 until 1915. Mrs. Haldeman was sworn in as a trustee in 1889.³¹ Members also included John E. Raymond, a pioneer hardware dealer, banker and philanthropist.

A week after the tornado, the congregation voted to re-build. The modest wood-framed building would be replaced by a permanent masonry structure that would seat 500. The congregation elected a building committee that included W. C. McMillan, James Brown and Reverend John Currer – and a soliciting committee consisting of Loren Brown, James Brown and A. Gemmel.³² To

²⁶ *Girard Press*, 28 September 1939.

²⁷ *A Twentieth century history and biographical record of Crawford County* (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1905), 189-197.

²⁸ William G. Cutler, *History of the State of Kansas* (Chicago: Andreas, 1883).

²⁹ *Daily Republican* (Decatur, Illinois), 23 November 1886.

³⁰ *Girard Press*, 23 November 1887.

³¹ "First Presbyterian Church, Girard, Kansas, 130th Anniversary Celebration, Sunday, August 15, 1999."

³² *Girard Press*, 28 September 1939.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church
Girard, Crawford County, Kansas

Section number 8 Page 11

design the Romanesque Revival-style building, they hired Chicago firm Miller and Thain. The building was constructed by contractor Loren Brown. William Adamson, who constructed the church's original building, supervised the construction. It took less than a year to build the new church – it was completed in late 1887 at a cost of \$8116.38 and dedicated in January 1888. The masonry structure that rose from the twisted wreckage was a testament to the congregation's and community's growing permanence.

By the time of the church's completion, the nation was in the throws of a recession. Investment in the church's furnishings would have to wait until the early twentieth century. In 1912, hand-carved pews replaced the original theater-style seats.³³ Despite their billing as the "latest patent opera chairs" and "best seats made," the 205 folding chairs apparently did not stand the test of time.³⁴ In 1914, the church installed stained glass windows with donations from members. The Haldemans and Sarah's sister social activist and Nobel Prize Winner Jane Addams, donated stained glass windows for the church building. Other donors, whose names are inscribed on the windows, included the Raymonds, the Winstons, the Gemmels, and the Bruces.³⁵ In 1917, the church received funding from the Carnegie Foundation to purchase a Hinner's Pipe Organ. According to local lore, their application for funding was given preference due to a relationship between Jane Addams (Sarah Haldeman's sister) and Andrew Carnegie. However, Carnegie provided funding for 35 pipe organs in Kansas.³⁶

Since its dedication in January 1888, the church has stood as a testament to "the church that refused to be blown away." By 1939, the church's active membership had grown to 230.³⁷ The church is in the John Calvin Presbytery, which covers a territory in Southeast Kansas and Southwest Missouri. Below is a list of the church's ministers from 1870 to 1968.

³³ These pews were replaced in 1986, when members purchased pews from Pittsburg's United Presbyterian Church. "Girard Church Celebrates 100th Year," *Girard Press* 17 June 1987.

³⁴ *Girard Press*, 23 November 1887.

³⁵ "First Presbyterian Church, Girard, Kansas, 130th Anniversary Celebration, Sunday, August 15, 1999." In March 1914, H. H. Adams and S. A. Haldeman donated \$247.00 for the north windows. Mary E. Raymond donated \$215.00 for the south windows.

³⁶ *Ibid.* The organ committee included Reverend DeBolt, Mrs. J. E. Raymond, Walter Wayland, R. L. Sullivan, Mrs. O. E. Griffin, and Dr. H. M. Dillman. Andrew Carnegie donated funds for many pipe organs nationwide, particularly in his home state of Pennsylvania. "Music for the soul – The story of the organ of the First Presbyterian Church," *Girard Press*, clippings from the First Presbyterian Church.

³⁷ *Girard Press*, 28 September 1939.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 12 *First Presbyterian Church*
Girard, Crawford County, Kansas

Samuel T. McClure	Dec. 4 1870 – Nov. 5, 1873
Josiah G. Schaeffer	Dec. 30, 1873 – Feb. 15, 1875
Warren Mayo	May 1, 1876 – Feb. 1, 1880
Preston McKinney	Apr. 3, 1881 – Feb. 1, 1886
John Curren	May 1, 1886 – Oct. 20, 1890
Selby F. Vance	Apr. 12, 1891 – Apr. 9, 1893
J. C. Jacha	1893-1894
W. J. Hatfield	1894 – Oct. 31, 1897
Rev. Wenn	1897 – Apr. 1, 1898
Robert Liddell	Apr. 1, 1898 – Aug. 25, 1901
W. W. Kilpatrick	Jun. 22, 1902 – 1905
C. A. Berger	May 21, 1905 – Sep. 1, 1909
A. H. Morrison	Jan. 12, 1910 – Oct. 1, 1915
Frank P. DeBolt	Dec. 14, 1915 – Jun. 1919
George S. Sutton	Jun. 22, 1920 – Feb. 10, 1924
A. Frank Johnson	Apr. 22, 1924 – Jun. 1927
Nelson A. King	Sep. 1, 1927 – Sep. 1, 1934
King M. Phillips	Mar. 1, 1935 – Mar. 1942
Alfred C. Crouch	Jul. 1942 – Jul. 1944
P. B. Burleigh	Aug. 1944 – Jun. 1946
Ivan C. Smith	Jan. 1, 1947 – Dec. 1, 1951
Arloe L. Shelton	Feb. 28, 1952 – Nov. 1, 1955
Bruce Buchanan	Mar. 22, 1956 – Sep. 15, 1957
Dean V. Stevens	May 10, 1958 – May 12, 1968
Clifford N. McCall	1969-1976
Gordon Paul Page	1978-1981
George Ott	1981-1984
Brent Scott	1984-1992
Walter Swetnam	1995-1995
Terry Griffith	1997-1998
Robert Bardeem	1998-1999 ³⁸

³⁸ *The Seeker: Crawford County Genealogical Society of Southeast Kansas* Spring 1984 (vol. 14, no. 1)
Kansas State Historical Society, K 929 Se32. "First Presbyterian Church, Girard, Kansas, 130th Anniversary
Celebration, Sunday, August 15, 1999."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church
Girard, Crawford County, Kansas

Section number 8 Page 13

Romanesque Revival Architecture

The First Presbyterian Church is an example of the Romanesque Revival Style. Also known as the Round Arch Style, Romanesque Revival first emerged in the years preceding the Civil War and was a popular style for institutional and religious buildings through the turn of the century. The massing and form of early Romanesque Revival buildings resembled those of Gothic-Revival buildings. The principal character-defining feature of the Romanesque Revival Style is the rounded arch, described by Poppeliers and Chambers as "not the classical round arch of Roman times, but as filtered through the medieval Romanesque style." The nation's best-known example of Romanesque Revival is James Renwick, Jr.'s Smithsonian Institution, known as the "Castle," completed in 1855.³⁹ By the 1880s, the Romanesque Revival Style was supplanted by Richardsonian Romanesque, which dominated institutional and governmental architecture until 1910.

The majority of Romanesque Revival Style buildings in Kansas are churches. Because the style, which reflected Medieval German architectural trends, was imported to the United States by German immigrants, it was popular among German Lutheran and German Catholic congregations. Among the religious examples in Kansas are the St. Fidelis Catholic Church (known as the "Cathedral of the Plains") in Victoria, St. Mary's Church in Ellis, and St. Joseph's Church in Hays. Most late nineteenth-century Presbyterian churches were built in the Gothic Revival Style. The First Presbyterian Church of Girard is the only known Romanesque Revival Style Presbyterian Church in the state.

Miller and Thain

The use of the style may be attributed to the building's architects, Miller and Thain. Charles Crosby Miller was born in Springfield, Massachusetts and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. As a young man Miller learned the building trade from his father, a "prominent builder." Miller went to work for architect John J. Husband when he returned to Cleveland in the 1850s, after attending Baptist University. In the late 1850s, Miller moved to St. Louis and partnered with John S. Bowen. But when Bowen joined the Confederate army, Miller returned to Ohio, where he practiced in Toledo and joined the Union National Guard. There, Miller became known for his public and religious designs, including

³⁹ John C. Poppeliers and S. Allen Chambers, Jr. *What Style Is It? A Guide to American Architecture*. (New Jersey: John Wiley and Sons, 2003), 54-56.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church
Girard, Crawford County, Kansas

Section number 8 Page 14

St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church. Miller moved to Chicago in October 1871. According to lore, he was on the train to Chicago when he heard about the fire. Like many architects, Miller found a ripe market in Chicago. Miller and his partner John G. Cochrane designed a number of prominent buildings, including the Chicago Board of Trade, Lord and Smith Building, and Galbraith Building. Miller was also an expert in residential design. He designed Victorian homes in streetcar suburbs, like Oak Park, Illinois. In 1873, Miller joined forces with Marcus Fayette Cummings to publish the widely distributed book *Victorian Architectural Details*.

It is unclear when Miller's partnership with John G. Cochrane ended and his partnership with Joseph A. Thain began. However, Miller and Thain were apparently partnered by the time of Cochrane's death in 1887. Unfortunately, less is known about Joseph A. Thain. Thain was apparently adept at the Romanesque Revival style. In 1889, he designed a Stone Romanesque Revival-Style row house in Chicago. The home became known in the 1910s and 1920s as the residence of author and civil rights activist Ida B. Wells.⁴⁰ Thain was among the many Chicago architects chosen to design buildings for the 1893 Chicago World's Columbian Exposition. The Office of Turkish Commissioners, Turkey Building and Turkish Village were built from his plans.⁴¹ In 1897 Thain designed a home for Daniel Gawne in Edgewater.

Thain's death date is unknown. Miller died in 1903. There are no other known Kansas buildings designed by Miller or Thain. The firm's level of involvement in the church's design is unknown. Many churches of the time obtained designs from patternbooks published by well-known architects.

Summary

The First Presbyterian Church in Girard, Kansas is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as an example of Romanesque Revival architecture. The building retains a high degree of integrity from its original 1888 construction and period of significance, with character-defining features including wainscoting, wood doors, wood trim, and stained-glass windows.

⁴⁰ Chicago Landmarks.

⁴¹ Rossiter Johnson, ed. *A History of the World's Columbian Exposition Held in Chicago in 1893* (New York: Appleton, 1897-1898), 172-176.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 15 **First Presbyterian Church**
Girard, Crawford County, Kansas

Bibliography

- Blackmar, Frank. *Kansas: A Cyclopedia of State History*. Chicago: Standard Publishing Company, 1912.
- Chiat, Marilyn Joyce Segal. *America's Religious Architecture: Sacred Places for Every Community*. New York: J. Wiley and Sons, 1997. Kansas SHPO Library, NA 5205 .C48 1997.
- Connelley, William. *A Standard History of Kansas and Kansans*. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1918.
- Eick, Gretchen Cassel. *Dissent in Wichita: The Civil Rights Movement in the Midwest, 1952-72*. Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2001.
- Girard Press*.
- Howard, Victor B. "Presbyterians, the Kansas-Nebraska Act, and the Election of 1856." *Journal of Presbyterian History* 49 (Summer 1971): 133-156.
- Howe, Jeffrey W. *Houses of Worship: an Identification Guide to the History and Styles of American Religious Architecture*. San Diego: Thunder Bay Press, 2003. Kansas SHPO Library, NA 5205 .H69 2003.
- Johnson, Rossiter, ed. *A History of the World's Columbian Exposition Held in Chicago in 1893*. New York: Appleton, 1897-1898.
- Miner, Craig. *Kansas: the History of the Sunflower State, 1854-2000*. Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 2000.
- Nelson, George W. "The First 100 Years of The United Presbyterian Church in Kansas." (21-page booklet).
- Poppeliers, John and S. Allen Chambers, Jr. *What Style is It: A Guide to American Architecture*. Hoboken, New Jersey: John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 2003.
- Price, Benjamin D. *Church Plans*. New Jersey: Benjamin and Max Charles Price, architects, 1904. Kansas SHPO Library, NA 4810 .P75 1904.
- Social Security Death Index.
- The Seeker: Crawford County Genealogical Society of Southeast Kansas*.
- Shortridge, James. *Cities on the Plains: The Evolution of Urban Kansas*. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2004.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9, 10 Page 16 *First Presbyterian Church*
Girard, Crawford County, Kansas

Bibliography, cont.

Shortridge, James. *Peopling the Plains: Who Settled Where in Frontier Kansas*. Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 1995.

Smylie, James H. *A Brief History of the Presbyterians*. Louisville, Kentucky: Geneva Press, 1996.

U. S. Census.

Verbal Boundary Description

The First Presbyterian Church is located on Lots 9 & 10 in Block 3 of Girard's Original Town Plat.

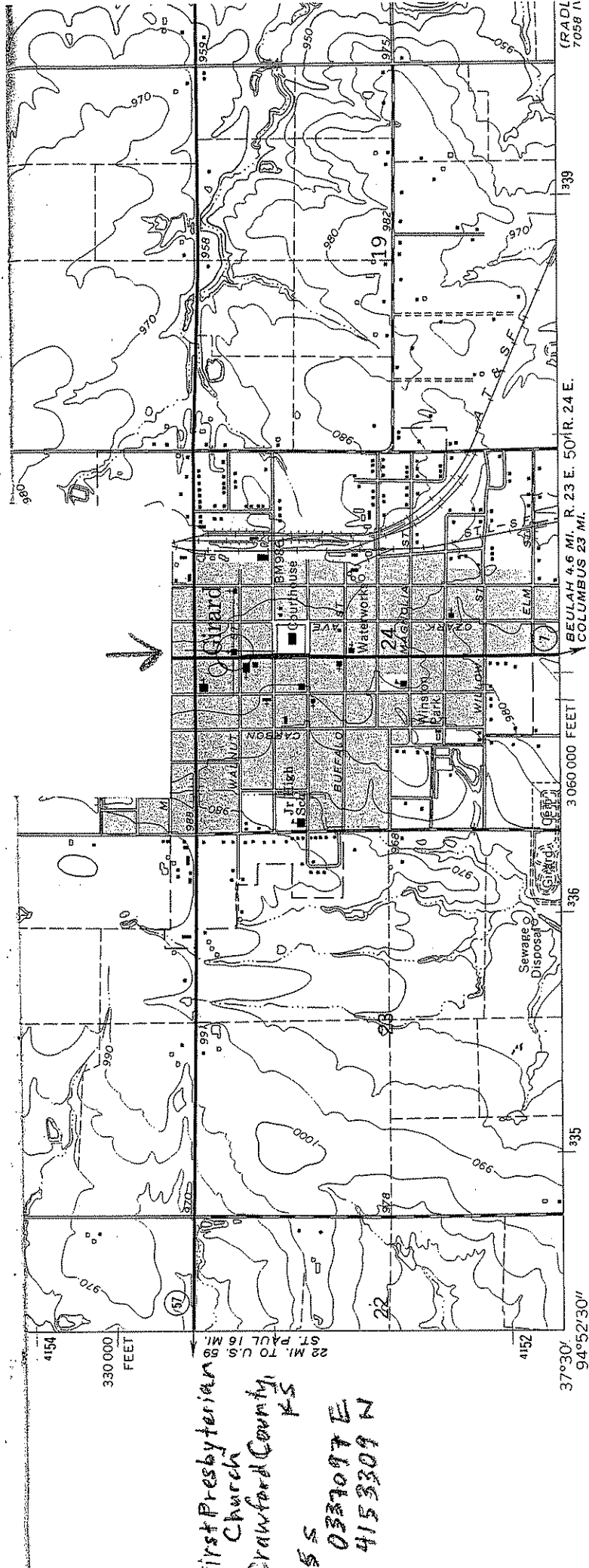
Boundary Justification

The nominated property is the property on which the church sits.

Photo Log

All photographs were taken by Christy Davis on July 14, 2008.

1. Exterior, West (Front) Elevation, Looking Northeast.
2. Exterior, South (Side) Elevation, Looking Northeast.
3. Exterior, East (Rear) Elevation, Looking Northwest.
4. Exterior, North (Side) Elevation, Looking Southwest.
5. Interior, Vestibule, Looking East toward Second-Floor Landing.
6. Interior, Sanctuary, Overall View, Looking Southwest toward South Windows and Main Entrance.
7. Interior, Sanctuary, Overall View, Looking Northwest toward North Windows and Overflow Space and Balcony on West Elevations.
8. Interior, Sanctuary, Looking Northeast toward North Windows and Pipe Organ.
9. Interior, Sanctuary, Looking Southeast toward Vestry.
10. Interior, Sanctuary, Close-up of Stained Glass Window donated by Jane Addams.
11. Interior, Balcony, Looking Southwest toward West Windows.
12. Interior, Original Bell.
13. Interior, Basement, Looking from Meeting/Banquet Hall toward Kitchen.



First Presbyterian Church
Crawford County, KS
S.S. 0337097 E
4153309 N

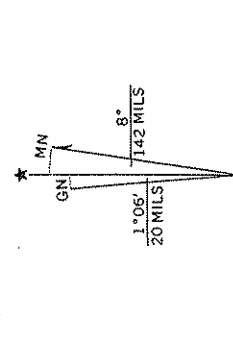
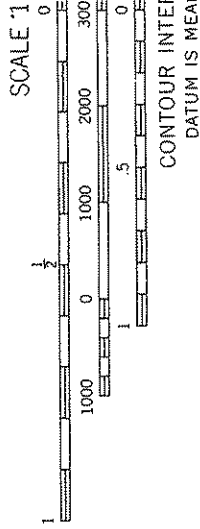
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey in cooperation with State of Kansas agencies

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1961. Field checked 1964

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum 10,000-foot grid based on Kansas coordinate system, south zone 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue

Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



UTM GRID AND 1964 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER AND BY THE STATE GEOLOGICAL A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS